

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Joseph R. Little

Serial No.: 09/542,782

Filed: April 4, 2000

For: APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR
FEATURE EDGE DETECTION IN
SEMICONDUCTOR PROCESSING

Confirmation No.: 6869

Examiner: S. Yam

Group Art Unit: 2878

Attorney Docket No.: 2269-4298US
(99-0996.00/US)

Notice of Allowance Mailed:

March 22, 2007

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING
JUNE 18, 2007

COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

Mail Stop ISSUE FEE
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

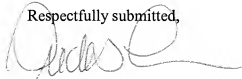
These Comments are filed in response to the statement of Reasons for Allowance that accompanied the Notice of Allowance mailed on March 22, 2007, and set forth Applicant's comments, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.104(e), with respect to the stated reasons for allowance.

It is respectfully noted that, while the stated reasons for allowing independent claim 1 accurately summarize limitations from independent claim 1, they merely comprise a summary,

Apparently, the reasons for allowing claim 22 were intended to apply to independent claim 21. Again, while these reasons summarize elements of independent claim 21, they should not be considered to limit the scope of independent claim 21. Rather, the scope of independent claim 21 should be construed on the basis of that claim's plain language and all available equivalents to the elements recited in that claim.

The stated reasons for allowing independent claims 41 and 59 are largely unintelligible, and do not closely summarize the subject matter recited in either of these claims. Accordingly, they are wholly inapplicable to independent claims 41 and 59, the scopes of which should be construed on the basis of their plain language and all available equivalents to the elements recited therein.

Respectfully submitted,



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